



**Belmont Human Rights Commission
Belmont Town Hall
March 3, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:~~Lisa Berndt, Carl Brauer, Julie Cicalese, Nan Donald, Chuck Lavery,

~~~~~Paul Solomon, Fran Yuan

~Members absent:~~Connie Williams

~Liaisons present:~~Kathryn Bonfiglio, BAR, Captain Peter Hoerr , Belmont Police Dept

~~~~~ Guests: Ted Dukas, John Vercellone

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OLD BUSINESS

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1. Paul Solomon took minutes.
2. The minutes of Feb.3, 2011 were approved unanimously.
3. Phone line: No calls to report.
4. No new members have applied, although Ted Dukas, who attended the meeting, has expressed interest.
5. MAHRC update:
Lisa noted that the minutes of the last MAHRC meeting had been circulated. A Department of Justice representative discussed referral procedures to the Department.
6. Outreach meetings:
Clergy Council: Carl, Fran and Connie met with the Council on March 2. The meeting was well attended and the members of the clergy expressed eagerness to inform their congregations about the HRC. There was discussion on diversity in town and school departments, bullying, and collaboration between the clergy and the HRC.

Future outreach scheduled: Beech St Center, April 11, 2011, 12:45pm.
Other outreach discussed: Sherman Gardens, Waverley Oaks and Belmont Village; schools; Belmont League of Women Voters (LWV)
Paul will contact the LWV,~~Julie will help Fran contact other groups.
Articles will be sent to the Citizen Herald and Belmont Patch.

- Activity Planning:
- There was discussion on sponsoring the screening of two films: "Rolling" and "Race: The Power of an Illusion, The House We Live In". Should one or both films be shown? It was agreed that showing one at a time would allow time for discussion.
Where: Studio Theater? Belmont Media Center?
Cosponsors: Council on Aging, Disability Access Commission, other?

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NEW BUSINESS

8. The HRC's Annual Report was filed with the Selectmen's Office, for inclusion in~the Town's 2010 Annual Report.
9. Other: The issue of disseminating extreme political literature in front of the Post Office this week was raised. Capt. Hoerr noted that this is free speech protected by the First Amendment, provided the literature contains no threats.
10. Liaison Reports:
 - Capt Hoerr, Police Dept:
 - 2 officers have returned to the department after military service. One other officer has gone to Afghanistan. There have been 2 officers retiring recently.
 - Bias crime: a passing motorist made anti-Asian comments to one of two teenagers. The motorist could not be apprehended.
 - Diversity in hiring: over the years, 3 African-American officers have been hired, 2 have transferred, one remains. There is one African-American crossing guard.~~There are 6 women on the force, which totals 46 officers.
 - Civil Service exam: April 15. Capt. Hoerr discussed various preferences the Town can use in hiring from the Civil Service list.
 - Kathryn Bonfiglio, BAR:
 - BAR plans to visit the Museum of Science exhibit on race, and schedule a dialogue on the exhibit.

~The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Solomon

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